

Currently, the District of Hawaii has four active judges. However, if any of these judges become inactive, by taking senior status or otherwise, the district will not be able to replace that judge because of the ten-year limitation, which has long passed. This would place a great burden on not only the three remaining active judges, but also on the litigants themselves, especially civil litigants. Due to the right to speedy trial, felony cases regularly bump civil trials off the calendar, leading to long delays to get to court for civil litigants. Civil cases include disputes involving personal injury, civil rights, the environment, business, and other non-criminal matters.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this and other initiatives that will address our need for additional federal judgeships across the country.

Mahalo nui loa (thank you very much).

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO MEMBERS
OF THE IRANIAN BAHÁ'Í COMMUNITY

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of international religious freedom and to voice my concern for the seven Baha'i leaders, known as the Yaran, who were unjustly convicted by the Iranian regime and sentenced to 10 years in prison for their religious beliefs.

As documented by years of reported abuse and discrimination by the U.S. State Department, the United Nations, and other international organizations, government respect for religious freedom and human rights in Iran is steadily declining. According to the State Department's 2010 International Religious Freedom report, since the 1979 Islamic Revolution over 200 Baha'is have been killed, many have been imprisoned, and thousands more have faced regular discrimination and public admonishment by the Iranian government.

Government rhetoric and actions create an oppressive environment for religious minorities in Iran, particularly the Baha'i, and instances such as the incarceration of the Yaran provide ample evidence of this. As a member of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, my colleagues and I have worked to bring attention to these injustices and hold human rights violators accountable. The Iranian Baha'i are deeply devoted to peace and unity and their bravery in the face of injustice encourages others to work for universal human rights.

Mr. Speaker, the U.S. government and the international community must continue to speak out against these oppressive acts. I call on my colleagues in Congress to join me in denouncing the imprisonment of the Yaran and partner with the international community to insist Iran release these individuals, strengthen the basic rights of their citizens, and provide an environment in which individuals can express their religion without fear of persecution or intimidation.

LUIS NAZARIO TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Luis Nazario of Pueblo, Colorado, for pioneering the use of technology in education. Mr. Nazario became a leader among Colorado's community colleges and online education programs before use of the internet for teaching purposes was popular.

As an English teacher, Mr. Nazario has been commended not only by his school, Pueblo Community College, but also by the Colorado Community College System at large. Students have broader access to educational tools both in the classroom and online in large part because of his efforts. Colorado stresses the importance of education for all of its citizens and Mr. Nazario is an example of innovation in that pursuit.

Mr. Nazario graduated from Inter American University in Puerto Rico with a degree in English Literature. He emigrated to the United States to receive his master's degree as a teacher of English to other languages from New York University. He then moved to Colorado to begin teaching in the state's community college system. Mr. Nazario continues to teach English and foster learning among students who speak English as a second language in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Luis Nazario for his exceptional commitment to the emerging presence of technology in education. I thank him for dedicating himself to education and reaching out to Colorado's youth.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY MAYOR
GERALDINE TOUSANT

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before you and my colleagues today to recognize Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant. Geraldine has served the city of Gary for many years and for her efforts, she was honored at an event celebrating her 50 years of service to the city on Saturday, August 14, 2010, at the Gary City Hall. Her complete dedication and endless enthusiasm put forth toward her community have allowed her the opportunity to enrich the lives of countless people.

Geraldine was born in Ensley, Alabama, and moved to the city of Gary when she was three years old. She graduated from Gary Roosevelt High School in 1957, and soon after married the late Marshall Tousant. The couple was happily married for nearly 51 years. Geraldine has three children and is the proud grandmother of five. Amidst her time in office, Geraldine courageously battled breast cancer, and I am happy to report that she is a twenty-year cancer survivor.

Geraldine began her service to the city of Gary in 1960 at the age of twenty-one. She started out as a clerk-typist in the city's Department of Redevelopment. Working her way

through the Department's ranks, Geraldine eventually became Director of the Department of Redevelopment. On February 14, 2003, Geraldine was recognized by former Mayor Scott King for her commitment to the people of Gary as he appointed her Deputy Mayor of the city of Gary.

Impressively, Geraldine has worked for seven mayors during her 50 years of service to the city: George Chacharis, my father John Visclosky, A. Martin Katz, Richard G. Hatcher, Thomas Barnes, Scott King, and current Mayor Rudy Clay. Throughout her many years of service, Geraldine has accomplished many impressive tasks, including handling the management and demolition of structures attained in other city agencies and computerizing the city's utility billings and payments.

Today, Geraldine is 71 years young and has no plans to retire anytime soon. Geraldine has said, "I hope my 50 years with the city of Gary have been a role model for other employees." Without a doubt, she has been just that.

Mr. Speaker, Deputy Mayor Geraldine Tousant has always given her time and efforts selflessly and has truly been an inspiration to so many people throughout the years. We have all been enriched because of her lifetime commitment serving others, particularly those most in need. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending Geraldine on her 50 years of service to the city of Gary.

CELEBRATING 100TH ANNIVERSARY
OF ANNA MARIA PIER

HON. VERN BUCHANAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Mr. BUCHANAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Anna Maria Pier in Florida's 13th Congressional District.

In 1911, Will Bean, the son of the first Anna Maria Island homesteader, George Emerson, had a 776 foot pier constructed by the Anna Maria Beach Development Company at the foot of Pine Avenue.

The pier has been in continuous use since then by hundreds of thousands of residents, fishermen, boaters and tourists. In fact, the pier has been named the number one tourist attraction in Manatee County by the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

In 1928, the pier was acquired by the City of Anna Maria, which provides for its maintenance.

In 2008, the Anna Maria City Commission designated the pier as an historic structure and added the pier to the Florida Master Site File.

This year, the Mayor of the City of Anna Maria proclaimed May 14, 2011, as the Centennial Celebration Day to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Anna Maria City Pier's construction.

I join the City of Anna Maria in the centennial celebration of this important landmark.